As far as the functional aspects are concerned, and what the hon. Member has suggested as to how they would function at the level of the districts, this will have to be operationalised by the State Governments and the High Courts in every district of the country, and if there are any suggestions with regard to the effective operationalisation of the Lok Adalats in all those districts, we will look into it. If there are any difficulties, these would be procedural matters which could, at this stage, be resolved. Our first challenge really now is to set up these Lok Adalats in public utilities so that in matters of municipalities, housing boards, insurance companies, citizens, in stead of rushing to courts and spending years there, could sort these matters out in the Lok Adalats and in the institution itself.

HIV Cases among students in Tamil Nadu

*173. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a medical camp conducted in a school in Tamil Nadu has revealed that seven students have tested HIV-positive;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 16 students of a professional college in Tamil Nadu have also been tested HIV-positive;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would contemplate revealing of information about students testing HIV-positive so that it would act as a deterrent for students all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

In the New Indian Express, Madurai edition dated 31.1.2003, published a news item which stated that:

(i) 7 students in a school tested positive for HIV.

(ii) 16 students of a professional college tested positive for HIV.

District Collector, Madurai was requested to verify this press report.

District Collector made detailed enquiry and has informed that there is no truth in the said news item published in the New Indian Express.

The District Collector Madurai after detailed enquiry has informed that there is no truth in the news item published in the New Indian Express. The school authorities have also confirmed in writing that no screening for HIV was ever conducted in the school.

Similarly, no screening or testing for HIV has been conducted in any of the professional colleges in Tamil Nadu.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Madam, in the written statement placed before the House, it is stated that there is no truth in the said news item. If so, what steps have been taken to stop such type of panic creating news items in future?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: उपसभापति महोदया, यह वास्तव में बहुत चिंता का विषय है कि एक घटना जो कभी घटी ही नहीं, उसके बारे में छाप दिया गया और घटना भी ऐसी कि जो सारे में पैनिक फैला दे। यानी उन स्कूलों में ब्लड टैस्ट कंडक्ट ही नहीं हुआ लेकिन छाप दिया गया कि वहां सात बच्चे एचआईवी पोजिटिव पाए गए हैं!

उपसभापति: आज के पेपर में भी छपा है।

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: जी हां! इस तरह की जब खबरें आती हैं तो उनका एक पैनिक रिएक्शन होता है। वहां के डिस्ट्रिक्ट कलेक्टर को जब इंक्वायरी करने के लिए कहा गया तो उसने डिटेल इंक्वायरी करके बताया कि वहां दो कैम्प लगे थे जिनमें से एक में डेंटल और दूसरे में ईएनटी चैक-अप हुआ। डेंटल और ईएनटी चैक-अप में तो ब्लड सैम्पल लिया ही नहीं जाता। उनके प्रिंसिपल से जब खबर मंगाई गई जो उन्होंने लिखकर कहा कि कोई ब्लड टैस्ट कंडक्ट ही नहीं हुआ। लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी खबर छाप दी। ऐसी इररिस्पांसिबल रिपोर्टिंग के लिए मुझे लगता है कि वहां की सरकार को कहना चाहिए था, लिखना चाहिए था। हमने भी यह ''नाको'' को कहा है कि कम से कम इस तरह के केसिस वे उनके ऐडिटर से जरूर उठाएं और कहें कि इस तरह की गैर जिम्मेदाराना खबरें न छापी जाएं क्योंकि इस तरह की गैर जिम्मेदाराना खबरें जब छपती हैं तो उनका बहुत खराब असर समाज पर पड़ता है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No.174.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Madam, I want to ask my second supplementary.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She has answered that nothing like that has happened.

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Madam, in the reply it is also stated that the school authorities and the district authorities have confirmed that there is no truth in the said news item. In that case, will the Government consider organising HIV awareness camps in colleges and higher secondary schools where students in the age-group of 18-25 are studying?

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: मैडम, आलरेडी जो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ऐड्स सोसाइटीज हैं, वे सारी की सारी सोसाइटीज इस तरह के अवेअरनैस प्रोग्राम कर रही हैं और "नाको" ने जो अपने प्रोग्राम बनाए हैं, अवेअरनैस प्रोग्राम उनका एक बहुत इंटिग्रेटिड हिस्सा है।

Permission to educational institutions to host radio stations

*174. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMCHANDRAYYA:†
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its consent for the proposals to allow educational institutions with residential facilities to host their own radio stations;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals;

(c) whether the security clearance would have be obtained from Home Ministry;

(d) if so, whether Government would not charge any license fee and those airing programmes would have to pay only the spectrum fee; and

(e) if so, to what extent it will be helpful for the schools and colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Government has decided to grant Community Broadcasting Licenses to well established educational insitutions/organisations, recognized by the Central Government or the State Government. These will include the Universities & Institutes of Technology/Management & residential schools.

† The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Rumandla Raamachandrayya.